

Human Relations News from the SEP 57

Mayor's Commission On Group Relations

NEWARK, NEW JERSEY

LEO P. CARLIN, Mayor

An official agency created by the Newark Fair Practice Ordinance to carry out the State policy against discrimination based on race, color, creed or national origin.

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AUGUST, 1956

A bi-monthly summary of facts and trends in human relations and civil rights Mayor Leo P. Carlin Calls for Community Study

(The following story appeared in the Newark Sunday News, August 5, 1956)

To Sift Tensions In Neighborhoods

Mayor's Unit Plans Local Hearings on Group Relations in City

By ANGELO BAGLIVO

A broad survey reaching into every Newark neighborhood will be launched soon to determine whether tensions are building up in the city among different racial and national groups.

The key part of the program, it was learned yesterday, will be a series of at least 18 fact-finding public meetings in all sections of the city, with emphasis on transition areas where dominant population groups are changing.

The program will be carried out by the Mayor's Commission on Group Relations under a mandate received from a conference of 35 community leaders summoned last month by Mayor Leo P. Carlin.

Fights at Stadium, Pool

Carlin called the session as an aftermath of youth disturbances at Schools Stadium and Hayes Park East swimming pool in which neighborhood tensions were seen as possible underlying causes. The conference asked the commission to go into the neighborhoods, determine if tensions exist and recommend corrective measures.

Details of a program to implement that directive were approved by the

commission at a special conference last week. Chairman of the commission is C. Willard Heckel, assistant dean of Rutgers Law School.

The commission agreed to form three-member subcommittees to hold the neighborhood meetings, expected to start late this month or in early September. Local organizations, including community and neighborhood councils and PTAs, will be asked to co-sponsor the sessions. Through co-operation of the Board of Education, most of the meetings will be held in schools at night.

Neighborhood residents and representatives of local organizations will be invited to air their views and make recommendations to improve group harmony.

A tentative timetable calls for the commission to complete the meetings, review the findings of the subcommittees and return a comprehensive re-

port to Carlin and the conferences by the end of November.

Among the meetings tentatively planned will be three in the Central Ward at Monmouth St. School, Cleveland Jr. High School and Central High School co-sponsored by the Urban League of Essex County. Other sessions will be held in the Weequahic, Clinton Hill, Vailsburg, Roseville and Forest Hills sections, the East Ward and the northern and southern ends of downtown Newark.

Educational Program

While the survey is in progress, the commission also will sponsor two major educational steps. The first will be a one or two-day institute in September to which invitations will be sent to presidents and program chairmen of several hundred Newark organizations.

Purpose of the institute will be to acquaint the organization leaders with films, speakers and programs available to their groups on the topic of community and group relations.

The second step will be a 10 to 15-session course this fall at the YM-YWCA in leadership training for community human relations. Executives of city social agencies will help plan and carry out both programs.

MAYOR'S COMMISSION ON GROUP RELATIONS

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HISTORY OF THE COMMISSION

In 1945, our State won national attention when it enacted the Anti-Discrimination Law of New Jersey. Experience in administering the law showed the need for certain changes; and in 1949 major amendments and supplements were made. The State recognized the need for implementing the law at the municipal level, and in Section 9, Paragraph "e", the law states:

The mayors or chief executive officers of the municipalities in the State may appoint local commissions on civil rights to aid in effectuating the purposes of this act . . .

Consequently, in 1950 a group of Newark citizens were appointed to the Newark Civil Rights Commission by the Mayor. They laid the groundwork for increasing the effectiveness of the state law in our city. After two years of work and study, Newark's Commission on Civil Rights recognized the limitations of its effectiveness and recommended that the Commission be provided with a full-time, professional executive director and the necessary assistants.

Following this recommendation, the City Commission voted into law the Newark Fair Practice Ordinance, officially establishing the Mayor's Commission on Group Relations. The Ordinance's Declaration of Policy states, in part;

... this local law is enacted to provide an instrumentality through which the City of Newark may officially encourage and bring about mutual understanding and respect by all groups in the city, eliminate prejudice, intolerance, bigotry, discrimination and disorder and help give effect to the guarantee of equal rights for all as assured by the Constitution and laws of the State.

Under the ordinance, the first major move was the appointment of an executive director and a commission of fifteen representative citizens.

Programs of the First Three Years

Over the past three years a program of education and action has been undertaken by the Commission to carry out its aims and functions. The scope of these activities can be most clearly illustrated by briefly describing a few of our projects.

Two examples of our work in the area of mass communications are:

1. FAIR EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES WEEK

A specific observation of Brotherhood Week to focus attention on the Anti-discrimination Law of New Jersey. The distribution of pamphlets, posters, displays and other educational materials was accomplished by many local organizations and business firms.

2. TOWN MEETINGS

The Commission served as the City's official agency to coordinate a community-wide observance of the Tenth Anniversary of the United Nations, in cooperation with the Newark Chapter of the American Association for the United Nations and one hundred other local organizations. A mass meeting drew 2,500 people to the Mosque Theater.

Two specific examples of the educational aspect of our mission are:

1. POLICE TRAINING COURSES IN HUMAN RELATIONS

A four hour course on "Human Relations in Police Work," arranged for two hundred recruit policemen and two hundred and twelve patrolmen taking refresher courses at the Newark Academy. Short talks concerning problems in human relations were given, with the major part of the time devoted to group discussion of the problems of the policeman on the beat.

2. ADULT EDUCATION WORKSHOP IN HUMAN RELATIONS

A series of ten two hour sessions given at West Side and Weequahic Adult Schools for laymen, students and workers in the field of human relations. Each class was conducted on a group discussion basis with guest consultants serving as resource persons when requested by the participants.

Some examples of activities in other areas are:

1. PROGRAM SERVICES

The Commission provided speakers, discussion leaders, consultants and educational aids for groups planning programs on civil rights and human relations.

2. SCHOLARSHIPS TO RUTGERS UNIVERSITY WORKSHOP IN HUMAN RELATIONS

Since its inception the Commission provided twenty-four scholarships to qualified Newark residents who were selected from the Board of Education, Fire Department, Police Department, Health Department, and other groups, to attend these summer sessions which lasted for one week during the month of July. Several persons were sent to the six week Workshop for teachers, policemen and social workers.

3. PREVENTION OF TENSION INCIDENTS

The philosophy of our Commission has always emphasized prevention rather than cure. For that reason we have numerous individuals and organizations reporting many minor tension incidents which occur in their neighborhood. When conflict of any kind arises, the staff then investigates the situation using persuasion, conciliation and common sense to restore peace and understanding.

4. INVESTIGATION OF COMPLAINTS

If the complaint is one which falls under the jurisdiction of the Division Against Discrimination, the Commission staff immediately contacts a field representative of this official state agency and turns over its findings to this group.

**TENTH ANNUAL
NAIRO CONFERENCE
NOVEMBER 28-30
BELLEVUE-STRATFORD
PHILADELPHIA**

TODAY AND TOMORROW

The Commission realizes there is still much to be done. A more extensive program of education and action can now be planned with the increased knowledge, experience and community cooperation attained during the past three years.

EXECUTIVES ROUND TABLE

Semi-monthly meetings of the executives and directors of local group relations agencies to discuss state and local events of mutual interest; to determine courses of action on a joint basis and to foster greater unity among these agencies concerned with the problems of human relations.

The following pages are devoted to a review of the history, functions and aims of these private and public group relations agencies which work cooperatively with the Mayor's Commission on Group Relations.

Many similarities of approach and philosophy run through the following statements of purpose. For the sake of maintaining the unity and accuracy of the objectives of all participating contributors, we have reproduced these agency functions exactly as they were presented to us.

The Editors

Organizations Cooperating with the Mayor's Commission on Group Relations.

Division Against Discrimination

The State Division Against Discrimination of the New Jersey Department of Education is charged with administering the state's law against discrimination in employment, places of public accommodation, educational institutions, and public or publicly-assisted housing.

It is unlawful in New Jersey for employers, employees, labor unions, employment agencies, educational institutions, owners and operators of places of public accommodation to discriminate against persons because of their race, creed, color, national origin or ancestry, or military status.

Individuals who believe they have been discriminated against for the above reasons have recourse to remedy through filing a complaint with the Division Against Discrimination within ninety days after the alleged act of discrimination and verified by affidavit. When received by the Division, such complaints are investigated and every effort is made to settle all complaints by conference, conciliation and persuasion, as the law directs. If this procedure fails, a hearing is held and, if the evidence warrants, an order is issued to cease and desist from the discriminatory practice.

Willful interference with the Division in the performance of its duty under the law, or willful violation of an order of the Commissioner, constitutes a misdemeanor, and is punishable by imprisonment for not more than one year or by fine of not more than \$500, or by both.

The Division also issues publications and conducts programs of public education through surveys and research to promote good will and to minimize or eliminate discrimination because of race, creed, color, national origin or ancestry.

To file a complaint or secure information, persons are directed to apply to the State Department of Education, Division Against Discrimination, 1100 Raymond Blvd., Newark. Telephone: MArket 4-1414, or 162 West State Street, Trenton. Telephone: EXport 2-2131.

ESSEX COUNTY INTERGROUP COUNCIL

The Essex County Intergroup Council brings together the thinking, the programs, and the activities of eighteen organizations dedicated to improving human relations. Intended as a means

of securing cooperation and coordination to strengthen the impact of intergroup agencies upon the community, it has at the same time itself engaged in certain programs designed to carry out most effectively the common objectives of the members.

Pursuing a pattern which has been adopted in virtually every major city in the United States, the Essex County Intergroup Council provides a roundtable where its member organizations can look, even critically, at each other's activities, can attract support from among other groups for their own activities and can point to an unmet need which no group may currently be meeting but for which intergroup agencies should take some responsibility.

The Council is only as significant and as active as its members wish it to be. It is based on a concept of community—that in the field of intergroup relations the needs of the community come first, even before the pulls of organizational ties and private satisfactions. At its least it represents a spirit of cooperation toward a great goal. At its best, it enhances its members' programs and activities, while serving the intergroup needs of the community.

Essex County Intergroup Council
30 Clinton Street
Newark, New Jersey, MA 2-1808

THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

The American Jewish Committee, founded in 1906, conducts an educational program designed to combat prejudice and discrimination. Its work is based on the belief that prejudice is a problem not only for those who are its victims, but for all Americans.

Based on fifty years of experience, the American Jewish Committee's campaign against prejudice is conducted by:

Continual investigation and exposure of organized anti-Semites and other subversives.

Countering anti-democratic propaganda with accurate information reaching the American people through radio, press, motion-pictures, books and pamphlets, speakers, discussion groups.

Enlisting in the fight against prejudice the cooperation of many editors, publishers, labor and industrial leaders, veterans and youth leaders, ministers and educators of all faiths.

Initiating and supporting legal measures against discrimination in employment, higher education, enjoyment of civil rights, and housing.

Determining, through scientific research and study, what prejudice essen-

tially is, how it operates, and what can be done to eradicate it.

Assisting local community relations organizations that are conducting activities to counteract anti-Semitism in their communities.

Organizing AJC chapters in strategic cities throughout the country to enlist leadership and support of this program and to develop its counterpart in local communities.

Essex County Chapter of the
American Jewish Committee
45 Bradford Place
Newark, New Jersey, MI 2-1633

URBAN LEAGUE OF ESSEX COUNTY

The Urban League of Essex County is a professional social service agency. It is a member of the Newark Welfare Federation, the Council of Social Agencies, and one of 60 local affiliates of the National Urban League. It was founded in May, 1917 and has been in operation ever since that time.

The basic operating program of the League is dedicated to improving the working and living conditions of minorities—any minority racial group. By so doing, the Urban League is striving to make Essex County a better place in which all racial groups can work and live.

To achieve its goals, the League devotes itself to the task of developing a high degree of civic pride and fair play among all peoples in the communities it serves. It assists new and old workers alike in getting and holding better jobs. It helps minority group citizens secure desirable housing at rents and prices which they can afford. It develops ways and means through which minority group residents can make their highest contributions to the economic, cultural, and interracial progress of the total community.

To the best of our knowledge, the Urban League is the only professional social agency in Essex County specifically staffed and wholly devoted to a program of improving the working and living conditions of minority group citizens. As such, the League functions in the field of health; housing; education; recreation; employment; social welfare, and intergroup relations. It is committed, therefore, to activities in these fields primarily on the behalf of non-white groups—it is the only professional social service agency that we can find in Essex County that is so committed.

Urban League of Essex County
58 Jones Street, Newark, N. J.
Phone: MArket 2-5331

AMERICAN JEWISH CONGRESS

The American Jewish Congress seeks to unite American Jews to: eliminate all forms of racial and religious discrimination; achieve the democratic organization of the American Jewish community; stimulate an informed awareness of Jewish affairs; protect the civil, religious and economic rights of Jews everywhere; help Israel develop in freedom, security and peace; and affirm the unity of the Jewish people.

Some of the achievements of the American Jewish Congress are: a forerunner of the movement to establish a Jewish State and, since 1948, has given unwavering support to Israel's needs and aspirations; drafted and led the fight for the enactment of precedent-making laws to check discrimination and bigotry such as: laws protecting religious liberty; state fair educational practices acts; state fair employment practices acts; and state fair housing acts.

Initiated and acted as attorney in major test cases which resulted in: banning distribution of Gideon Bible in public schools; ending discrimination against Sabbath observers denied unemployment compensation; barring anti-Semitic bias in radio broadcasting.

Here in the State of New Jersey the American Jewish Congress furnished the attorney in the famous Prinz vs. McGinley case, which resulted in Rabbi Prinz, Honorary President of the New Jersey Region of the Congress receiving \$30,000.00 in a successful libel suit; and furnished the attorney, Mr. Adrian Unger, to act for Eugene Landy, who received a Commission after he had been refused an Ensignship by the United States Navy.

American Jewish Congress
17 William Street
Newark, New Jersey, MA 3-7478

National Association For The Advancement of Colored People

The story of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is a story of progress in American civilization. The NAACP began in 1909 when fifty-three Americans with a fierce devotion to democracy and humane race relations banded together in an attempt to right some of the shocking wrongs being inflicted upon a group of fellow citizens.

NAACP members, of all races and religions, are organized into more than a thousand branches, which in turn form thirty state conferences and several regional conferences. The National office staff covers the country, too. With headquarters in New York, the Association maintains a Washington Bureau (in which most of the legislative activity is centered) and three regional offices in Birmingham, Dallas, and San Francisco.

Chartered in July, 1914, the Newark branch has been constantly on the alert, not only to combat unfair race practices but also to cooperate with other agencies to promote better intergroup relations.

The branch meets monthly, except July and August, has an interracial membership of more than twelve hundred and a fast growing Youth Council. During 1956, the Newark branch will work to secure the right of every citizen to live in the house of his choice in accordance with his means; to promote a community action program to level any barriers in our public school system and to attain our membership goal of two thousand new members.

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
Post Office Box No. 934
Newark 1, New Jersey
Phone: Mr. Samuel Haynes,
MArket 2-2273

ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE

The Anti-Defamation League is an educational arm of B'nai B'rith, world's oldest and largest Jewish civic and fraternal organization.

The ADL is dedicated to the preservation and enrichment of America's democratic legacy—with the belief that America is a great nation with an even greater destiny—and that those gaps and shortcomings in our performance as a nation that prevent us from fully achieving our ideals of freedom must—and will—be overcome.

The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith seeks by education and the force of public opinion, by law and by social action, to promote better human relations among all Americans. With the conviction that bigotry in any form against any American hurts all of us, ADL engages in a broad educational program, cooperating with: 1. Religious groups 2. Educators on all school levels 3. Civic groups and clubs 4. Youth Organizations 5. Veterans organizations 6. Business and labor groups 7. Social service agencies 8. Women's groups.

In working for the establishment of those basic attitudes on which good human relations are founded, ADL offers: 1. Films 2. Radio and TV programming 3. Aids to educators 4. Recordings 5. Speakers 6. Books 7. Advertising 8. Posters 9. Leaflets 10. Cartoons.

All of these materials and consultative services are available on request to those who will find them helpful in their own efforts to strengthen the democratic fabric. With the assistance of regional offices in key cities across the nation, the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith carries on its action program of community services.

The New Jersey regional office is located at 1060 Broad Street, Newark, New Jersey, Phone Number: MArket 3-6241.

Mayor's Commission on
Group Relations
Room 214, City Hall
Newark 2, New Jersey